

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           1. (original) A method of forming a slit-to-order  
2 relatively narrow pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or  
3 tapes from an inventory including a relatively wide  
4 roll of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape stock  
5 comprising a substrate coated with a layer of pressure-  
6 sensitive adhesive, the method comprising the steps of  
7 unwinding the relatively wide roll of pressure-  
8 sensitive adhesive tape stock, combining adhesive-  
9 inhibiting masking with the adhesive of said unwound  
10 stock along a continuous machine-direction line or  
11 lines at an intermediate point or points across the  
12 width of the unwound stock, and slitting said  
13 substrate, adhesive layer and masking along said line  
14 or lines to form at least one slit tape narrower in  
15 width than said roll of tape stock.

1           2. (original) A method of manufacturing self-  
2 wound pressure-sensitive-adhesive transfer tapes  
3 comprising combining release means with the first and  
4 second faces of a substrate with the second face having  
5 the easier release, combining a layer of pressure-

6 sensitive adhesive with the first face of said  
7 substrate, combining adhesive-inhibiting masking with  
8 said adhesive along a continuous machine-direction line  
9 or lines, and slitting said substrate, adhesive layer  
10 and masking along said line or lines to form at least  
11 one slit tape having an edge thickness substantially  
12 equal to the average thickness of the tape across its  
13 width.

1 3. (previously presented) A method as in claim 2  
2 in which at least two slit tapes are formed in said  
3 slitting step, and including the steps of winding the  
4 slit tapes into slit rolls, and subsequently unwinding  
5 at least one of said slit rolls, combining additional  
6 adhesive-inhibiting masking with the adhesive of said  
7 slit roll along a continuous machine-direction line or  
8 lines at an intermediate point or points across the  
9 width of the slit roll, and slitting said substrate,  
10 adhesive layer and masking along said line or lines to  
11 form at least one additional slit tape narrower than  
12 the tape forming said slit roll.

1 4. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing  
2 pressure-sensitive tape comprising the steps of feeding  
3 a substrate along a manufacturing line, combining a

4 layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive with a first face  
5 of said substrate, printing said layer of pressure-  
6 sensitive adhesive with a patterned adhesive-inhibiting  
7 masking to define a masking pattern comprising at least  
8 one continuous unbroken line, slitting through said  
9 substrate, adhesive layer and masking along said at  
10 least one continuous unbroken line defined by said  
11 pattern coating to form a slit tape having an edge  
12 thickness substantially equal to the average thickness  
13 of the tape across its width, and further processing  
14 said slit tape by releasably combining the side of said  
15 pressure-sensitive adhesive layer bearing said masking  
16 against a second substrate face, said second substrate  
17 face comprising the other face of said first-named  
18 substrate to thereby produce a self-wound tape, or  
19 comprising the face of an additional substrate to  
20 thereby produce a multisubstrate tape.

1 5. (previously presented) A method as in claim 4  
2 in which said combining of said pressure-sensitive  
3 layer against said second substrate face is preceded by  
4 the coating of at least parts of said second substrate  
5 face with a release coating.

Claims 6 - 11 (cancelled).

1           12. (currently amended) A method of making roll  
2 stock comprising the steps of:  
3           providing a substrate having a length extending in  
4 the machine direction, a width extending in the machine  
5 cross direction, and a substrate surface,  
6           combining said substrate with a pressure-sensitive  
7 adhesive layer, said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer  
8 having a length extending in the machine direction, a  
9 width extending in the machine cross direction  
10 substantially equal to the width of said substrate, and  
11 an exposed adhesive surface remote of said substrate  
12 surface,  
13           applying adhesive-inhibiting masking to said  
14 exposed adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive  
15 adhesive layer along a continuous machine-direction  
16 line or zone extending across a portion of said width  
17 of said exposed adhesive surface to form a nonadhesive  
18 line or zone and an adjacent adhesive surface line or  
19 zone substantially free of masking,  
20           slitting along said continuous machine-direction  
21 line or zone through said substrate, pressure-sensitive  
22 adhesive layer and masking, and  
23           ~~said roll stock having a substantially uniform~~  
24 ~~thickness from edge to edge with said masking having a~~  
25 ~~thickness in the order of microns, and~~

26 winding said substrate and pattern coated adhesive  
27 layer into a roll to form said roll stock,  
28 said roll stock having a substantially uniform  
29 thickness from edge to edge with said masking having a  
30 thickness in the order of microns.

1 13. (previously presented) The method of claim  
2 12, wherein said adhesive-inhibiting masking is applied  
3 at a plurality of spaced locations along the width of  
4 said exposed adhesive surface to form a corresponding  
5 plurality of nonadhesive lines or zones with adjacent  
6 adhesive lines or zones.

1 14. (previously presented) The method of claim  
2 13, wherein said substrate also includes side edges  
3 extending in the machine direction, and said roll stock  
4 has an edge thickness substantially equal to the  
5 average thickness of the roll stock across its width.

1 15. (previously presented) The method of claim  
2 13, wherein said substrate also includes side edges  
3 extending in the machine direction, and said adhesive-  
4 inhibiting masking is also applied in a continuous line  
5 or zone at each of said side edges of said substrate to  
6 provide pick-free edges.

16. (cancelled).

1        17. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~16~~  
2    12, wherein said adhesive-inhibiting masking is applied  
3    at a plurality of spaced locations along the width of  
4    said exposed adhesive surface to form a corresponding  
5    plurality of nonadhesive lines or zones with adjacent  
6    adhesive lines or zones.

7        18. (previously presented) The method of claim  
8    12, including the further step of subsequently applying  
9    additional adhesive-inhibiting masking to said exposed  
10   adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive adhesive  
11   layer along a second continuous machine-direction line  
12   or zone extending across another portion of said width  
13   of said exposed adhesive surface to form a second  
14   nonadhesive line or zone spaced from said first  
15   mentioned nonadhesive line or zone.

1        19. (previously presented) A method of making  
2    roll stock comprising the steps of:  
3        providing a substrate having a length extending in  
4    the machine direction, a width extending in the machine  
5    cross direction, and a substrate surface,

6 combining said substrate with a pressure-sensitive  
7 adhesive layer, said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer  
8 having a length extending in the machine direction, a  
9 width extending in the machine cross direction, and an  
10 exposed adhesive surface remote of said substrate  
11 surface,

12 applying adhesive-inhibiting masking to said  
13 exposed adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive  
14 adhesive layer along a continuous machine-direction  
15 line or zone extending across a portion of said width  
16 of said exposed adhesive surface to form a nonadhesive  
17 line or zone and an adjacent adhesive surface line or  
18 zone substantially free of masking,

19 subsequently applying additional adhesive-  
20 inhibiting masking to said exposed adhesive surface of  
21 said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer along a second  
22 continuous machine-direction line or zone extending  
23 across another portion of said width of said exposed  
24 adhesive surface to form a second nonadhesive line or  
25 zone spaced from said first mentioned nonadhesive line  
26 or zone,

27 said second nonadhesive line or zone being sized  
28 and positioned in a pattern different from that of said  
29 first mentioned nonadhesive line or zone, and

30 winding said substrate and pattern coated adhesive  
31 layer into a roll to form said roll stock.

1 20. (previously presented) A method of making an  
2 article having adhesive and nonadhesive surface lines  
3 or zones comprising the steps of:

4 providing a substrate including a substrate  
5 surface,

6 combining said substrate with a pressure-sensitive  
7 adhesive layer, said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer  
8 having a width, a length and an exposed adhesive  
9 surface remote of said substrate surface,

10 applying adhesive-inhibiting masking in a  
11 continuous machine-direction line or zone along said  
12 exposed adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive  
13 adhesive layer to form said nonadhesive surface line or  
14 zone, said nonadhesive line or zone having a width less  
15 than said adhesive layer width whereby an adjacent  
16 portion of said exposed adhesive surface of said  
17 pressure-sensitive adhesive layer forms said adhesive  
18 line or zone,

19 subsequently applying additional adhesive-  
20 inhibiting masking to said exposed adhesive surface of  
21 said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer along a second  
22 continuous machine-direction line or zone extending



23 across another portion of said width of said exposed  
24 adhesive surface to form a second nonadhesive line or  
25 zone spaced from said first mentioned nonadhesive line  
26 or zone,  
27 said second nonadhesive line or zone being sized  
28 and positioned in a pattern different from that of said  
29 first mentioned nonadhesive line or zone, and  
30 incorporating said pressure-sensitive adhesive  
31 layer into said article to provide said article with  
32 said adhesive and nonadhesive surface lines or zones.

1 21. (previously presented) The method of claim  
2 20, wherein said step of incorporating said pressure-  
3 sensitive adhesive layer into said article includes  
4 incorporating said substrate and said pressure-  
5 sensitive adhesive layer in said article.

1 22. (previously presented) The method of claim  
2 20, wherein said step of incorporating said pressure-  
3 sensitive adhesive layer into said article includes  
4 separating said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer from  
5 said substrate and incorporating said pressure-  
6 sensitive adhesive layer in said article.